

Motorcycle Safety Work Group Meeting
September 21, 2005 Minutes

- I. Welcome
John Stokes, Chairman

II. Introductions

Attending: John Stokes, GHSP; Darrell Jernigan, GHSP; Don Nail, GHSP; Catherine McLaurin, GHSP; Dave Galloway, NCMSEP; Joe Carey, NCMEF; Capt. Briggs, NC SHP; Earl Buckhart, Jacksonville PD; Ethan Brinn, Raleigh Motor Officer; Jim Everhart, Retreads, Abate; Charles Burris, rider.

Absent: Cliff Braam, DOT; Tony Wyatt, DOT; Jimmy Stallings, NC M/C Dealers Association

III. John Stokes familiarized everyone with the purpose of the group, being:

- A.) To evaluate and prioritize issues related to motorcycle crash rates, crash injuries and crash fatalities in North Carolina.
- B.) To determine which issues we will address and develop a strategy to impact these issues and report the same to the DOT Executive Committee.

IV. Open Discussion

A.) Motorcycle fatalities

- There has been an increase in the number of total motorcycle fatalities- 9% of traffic fatalities involve motorcycles while motorcycle registrations are less than two percent of registered vehicles.
- NHTSA recognized four priorities for the year, one being motorcycle safety
- Motorcycle usage will increase with gas price increases

B.) Goals of group

- To set attainable goals for affecting motorcycle safety
- To establish a way to measure the success of our efforts

C.) Causes of motorcycle crashes

- Speed
- Alcohol
 - Impairment begins before .08
 - Riding a motorcycle requires more skill than driving a car
- Rider Skill levels, poor speed and distance judgement (**rider education**)
- Proper safety equipment (helmets, long sleeves and gloves)

D.) Target audience

- Should be new and those who have been riding for years
 - Push motorcycle safety courses at rallies?

- Relationship between rallies and increase in fatalities?
- E.) Addressing issues
 - Should take advantage of vehicles already in place
 - COPS: Concerns of Police Survivors
 - BADD: Bikers Against Drunk Driving
 - NCMSEP: NC Motorcycle safety Education Program
 - NCMEF: NC Motorcycle Education Foundation
 - Booze It & Lose It campaigns
 - Rallies for fallen law enforcement
- F.) How N.C. measures up
 - North Carolina has consistently ranked 2nd (following Florida) for motorcycle fatalities in our NHTSA region of eight states
 - What are the demographics of riders in fatalities?
- G.) Equipment
 - Insurance premiums are based on engine size and claimed value
 - Helmets: most law enforcement officers are not properly trained to ID legal vs. illegal helmet.

Next meeting in 4-6 weeks. We need a strategy to present to the executive committee. Three main problems are speed, alcohol and unskilled drivers.